

## Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 623

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINR PFOR CO

SUBJ: BIO: LUIS PRIETO OCAMPO, NEW MAYOR OF BOGOTA AND MEMBER  
OF OFFICIAL PARTY DURING LOPEZ' US VISIT

1. LUIS PRIETO OCAMPO WAS RECENTLY NAMED TO SUCCEED ALFONSO  
PALACIO RUDAS AS MAYOR OF BOGOTA. HE WILL ALSO BE A MEMBER OF  
THE OFFICIAL PARTY DURING LOPEZ' US VISIT. PRIETO IS A "LOPISTA"  
LIBERAL FROM DEPARTMENT OF CALDAS WHO HAS MADE HIS MARK IN  
PRIVATE BUSINESS. HE IS A TECHNOCRAT RATHER THAN A POLITICIAN.  
PRIETO IS EXPECTED TO TAKE OVER FROM PALACIO, WHO WILL BE  
AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL, WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO. THE NEWLY  
NAMED MAYOR HAS ALREADY PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THAT, AS BOGOTA'S  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, HE WILL CONCENTRATE ON A CAMPAIGN AGAINST  
INSECURITY AND CRIME IN THE CAPITAL CITY.

2. PRIETO WAS BORN IN MANIZALES IN 1925. HE GRADUATED IN  
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING FROM THE UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA BOLIVARIANA  
OF MEDELLIN IN 1946. FROM 1953 TO 1970 HE MANAGED A TEXTILE  
CONCERN IN MANIZALES CALLED TEJIDOS UNICA AND WAS DECORATED IN  
1970 BY THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE MEDAL, "MERITO EXPORTADOR". IN  
1970 HE WAS NAMED DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOP-  
MENT (IFI), AND IN 1971 HE BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE PRESTIGIOUS  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRIALISTS (ANDI). PRIETO RESIGNED  
THE ANDI POST LAST YEAR TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF COMPAÑIA MINEROS  
COLOMBIANOS FORMED WITH PRIVATE COLOMBIAN CAPITAL TO PURCHASE  
CERTAIN GOLD MINING INTERESTS OF US-OWNED INTERNATIONAL MINING  
COMPANY. IMC HAD LONG BEEN A TARGET FOR ULTRA-NATIONALISTS AND  
RADICAL-CHIC ELEMENTS AS WELL AS FOR POLITICIANS IN AREAS WHERE

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COMPANY OPERATED WHO FOUND IT A CONVENIENT SHIELD FOR THEIR OWN

SHORTCOMINGS. THE COMPANY MADE A GOOD DEAL AND WAS HAPPY TO SELL OUT TO PRIETO'S ORGANIZATION. MINEROS COLOMBIANOS NOW FINDS ITSELF BEING POTOSHOT BY THE SAME ELEMENTS THAT HAD HARASSED IMC. PRIETO HAS ALSO BEEN A PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALDAS, A COUNSELOR TO THE CALDAS DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNMENT, AND A REPRESENTATIVE IN THE DEPARTMENT ASSEMBLY. HE STUDIED FINANCE IN THE U.S. AND HAS ATTENDED NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE CONFERENCES IN THE U.S., L.A., AND EUROPE. PRIETO IS A PAST MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COLOMBIAN-AMERICAN CENTER IN MANIZALES.

3. PRIETO IS DESCRIBED AS A Refined GENTLEMAN WITH IMPECCABLE MANNERS. HE IS BRIGHT AND SINCERE. THE NEW MAYOR IS CONSIDERED TO BE A GOOD FRIEND OF THE U.S.

4. PRIETO'S FIRST WIFE, BEATRIZ URIBE, WAS KILLED IN A PLANE CRASH IN 1971, ALONG WITH THE ELDEST SON. NINE CHILDREN FROM THAT FIRST MARRIAGE REMAIN. PRIETO'S PRESENT WIFE'S NAME IS LUZ MARINA BOTERO.

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